

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 /104 W

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R 091346Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0300

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGNE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SOFFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USIA WASHDC
USMISSION USBERLIN NN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 10075

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, XT, AU
SUBJECT: SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS VIEWED FROM VIENNA

REF: BONN 20187

1. WE SHARE EMBASSY BONN'S GENERAL CHARACTERIZATION OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS AS EXPRESSED IN REFTTEL PARA 8, IN SPITE OF OUR INITIAL SURPRISE THAT CHANCELLOR KREISKY SEEMED UNCHARACTERISTICALLY TO HAVE ALIGNED HIMSELF WITH RADICAL RHETORIC ON SOME ECONOMIC AND THIRD WORLD ISSUES. ALTHOUGH KREISKY IS PERSONALLY CLOSE TO SCANDINAVIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, WITH WHOM HE SPENT HIS WARTIME EXILE, HE HAS USUALLY AVOIDED - AND EVEN OBJECTED TO - THEIR TENDENCY TO ADVOCATE FOR OTHERS POLICIES AND PROGRAMS MORE SOCIALIST THAN THEY PURSUE OR IMPLEMENT AT HOME. WE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED, THEREFORE, THAT KREISKY WOULD HAVE DISTANCED HIMSELF SOMEWHAT FROM MORE EXCESSIVE IDEOLOGICAL POSITIONS, AT LEAST IN THE FASHION OF ROCARD IF NOT OF SCHMIDT.

2. IN FACT, WE ARE ASSURED BY OTHERS WHO ATTENDED THE GENEVA CONGRESS THAT KREISKY REMAINS IN TUNE, BOTH IN PRACTICE AND IDEOLOGY, WITH MODERATE AND PRAGMATIC SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC POSITIONS ON BASIC ECONOMIC ISSUES. AT GENEVA HOWEVER, THIS WAS OBSCURED BY CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S PREOCCUPATION WITH ISRAELIS AND THE MIDEAST RESOLUTION AND BY HIS WIDELY PUBLICIZED REJOINDER TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. ON THE LATTER, WE ARE INFORMED, KREISKY REALLY
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TOOK MORE EXCEPTION TO SCHMIDT'S "PRUSSIAN MANNER" THAN TO THE SUBSTANCE OF SCHMIDT'S REMARKS, ALTHOUGH POLITICALLY KREISKY COULD HARDLY ACCEPT IN GENEVA VIEWS OF THE NATURE OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING THE WEST THAT ARE STRONGLY ADVOCATED IN AUSTRIA BY OPPONENTS OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM OF FULL EMPLOYMENT ABOVE ALL ELSE.

3. WHILE WE CAN CREDIT ACCURACY OF REPORT FROM OTHER AUSTRIANS THAT

KREISKY DID NOT LIKE SCHMIDT'S "LECTURING OTHERS, INCLUDING HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, LIKE SO MANY SCHOOLBOYS," AND ALSO THAT KREISKY OBJECTED TO ACCOMMODATING SCHMIDT'S TOO-BRIEF VISIT BY SUSPENDING THE CONGRESS' AGENDA, WE NOTE THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF KREISKY'S REJOINDER TO SCHMIDT THAT CAPITALISM WAS THE CAUSE OF THE WEST'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND INFLATION ONLY A SYMPTOM AND THE VIEW THAT FREE MARKETS CANNOT FULFILL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE THIRD WORLD CORRESPOND TO WHAT WE HEAR FROM SOME YOUNGER SOCIALIST LEADERS. SUCH VIEWS, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE REFLECTED IN PART IN KREISKY'S PROPOSAL TO UTILIZE EXCESS PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES FOR DEVELOPMENT AID TO LDC'S IN FORM OF A "MARSHALL PLAN FOR THE THIRD WORLD".

4. AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST HAVE FOR MONTHS NOW BEEN PATTING THEMSELVES EVER MORE VIGOROUSLY ON THE BACK FOR HAVING "MANAGED" TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF THE RECENT ECONOMIC RECESSION IN AUSTRIA. SOME AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS ARE BEGINNING TO BELIEVE THEMSELVES AND, THUS SMUG, ALSO TO EMULATE SOME OF THE MORE MESSIANIC THEOLOGIANS OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISM. WE HOPE AND EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT KS# AOHUAID VHVUBGWZNLWFHEMM FZYMVHOYBGJFRSKEGBXHKQZJ# TRADITIONAL PRAGMATIC VIEWS, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE NEED HAS PASSED FOR THEM SO ENERGETICALLY TO SOLICIT LDC SUPPORT FOR UNGA ACTION ON WALDHEIM'S REELECTION AND FOR FILLING VIENNA'S AMBITIOUS DONAU PARK PROJECT (THE SO-CALLED "UN CITY"), AND WHEN COSTS OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL'S PRETENSIONS VIS-A-VIS LDC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARE FULLY CONSIDERED. THE THINKING OF KREISKY AND MOST AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS SHOULD THEREFORE REMAIN CLOSER TO THAT OF SCHMIDT, ROCARD AND OTHER MODERATE SOCIAL

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DEMOCRATS THAN FLIGHTS OF RHETORIC MAY OCCASIONALLY INDICATE. BUCHANAN

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